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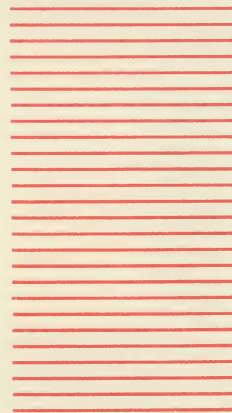
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PRESENTING A UNIQUE, EXCITING
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WHICH ONLY LIFE COULD DO -- THE

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You Are Invited to Reserve a Copy
of the First Volume -- THE SEA --
for Free Examination, without any
obligation to buy it.

Dear Reader:

Of all the articles ever published in LIFE, the most acclaimed and widely read were those in a brilliantly illustrated series about our planet Earth and the life that lives upon it. Perhaps you saw the series called THE WORLD WE LIVE IN and the monumental book of the same title that grew out of it. One of the most popular books of all time, this volume has been bought by over one million American families.

After THE WORLD WE LIVE IN was issued, readers continually asked when more nature books would be published by LIFE -- for they realized that only LIFE could produce such volumes . . .

. . . filled with breath-taking color
photographs and paintings;

. . . backed by painstaking scientific
research;

. . . created by an expert team of
editors, writers, artists, photographers
and researchers;

. . . produced at great cost, yet printed
in such enormous quantities that they
could be offered at tremendous savings
to thoughtful readers.

As LIFE's Editors began to study the exciting possibilities in assembling other great series in the tradition of THE WORLD WE LIVE IN, it became apparent that there was so much to be said and shown

that it could not be contained in a single book -- or even two or three.

So LIFE decided to publish a whole series of books on the fascinating world of nature -- each complete in itself, yet each a vital part of a series planned as a complete and enduring reference shelf. We called this series the Life Nature Library.

The first volume in the Life Nature Library is THE SEA.

Over 750,000 copies have been purchased and our readers tell us that it is one of LIFE's finest achievements. They say the text (35,000 words) and scores of color pictures have given them an understanding of the sea and the creatures that live in it ... in a way no ordinary book can do.

And because this book is so extraordinary I would like every thoughtful reader to enjoy the privilege of examining it.

Therefore, I have instructed our printers to reserve in your name (but at our risk) a copy of THE SEA -- just mail the enclosed Reservation Card, which already carries your name and address, and we will send you this book to read and examine for ten days, without any obligation to buy it.

And at the same time, this card will reserve for you the privilege of examining future volumes in the Life Nature Library series -- with the same examination and return privilege.

The reason I have reserved a copy of THE SEA for you is that we can print books only for readers who express a wish to see a copy. THE SEA is available directly from TIME-LIFE BOOKS. If it is offered to the general public, it will have to sell at a higher price.

THE SEA is the first volume in an exciting series of books which are issued to subscribers every two months. The second volume of the series is THE FOREST; among the others which follow, at two month intervals: THE DESERT, THE MOUNTAINS, THE POLES, and many more, some of which are described in the accompanying circular. All books will be issued, on approval, to readers who reserve the series in advance. The price will be only \$3.95 per volume (plus small shipping and handling). You may accept as many or as few as you wish, and you pay for each book only after you have seen it.

But whether or not you decide to continue examining future volumes in the Life Nature Library, I hope you will want to read THE SEA at our risk -- particularly if there are young people in your home.

For it is the sea, more than any other realm of life, which has fired the imagination of mankind since the dawn of history. In its vast and mysterious depths abide creatures far more exotic and numerous than those of the land -- creatures which range all the way from simple one-celled bacteria to the largest mammals that ever existed. Here, in the ancestral home of all living things, they form an animate panorama of evolution from the beginnings of time, holding answers to the riddles of the development of life itself.

In THE SEA this whole fascinating story is brought to you in 190 pages (62 in full color) containing photographs as only LIFE can take them, paintings that depict areas as yet unphotographed, and 35,000 words of background text by Leonard Engel. (A working oceanographer who has toured the Antarctic and the tropics aboard the Lamont Geological Observatory's schooner Vema, Engel is winner of the George Polk Memorial Award for scientific writing.)

As your family receives succeeding volumes in the Life Nature Library, volume by volume you will be building an invaluable reference library -- and your children will be building a knowledge of nature which is certain to stimulate their imaginations, awaken their interest in the world, lead them to wonder and to think so that their minds will grow and their thirst for further knowledge will be aroused.

I invite you now to accept THE SEA for free examination. I will be most happy to send it to you for you and your family to look at and read for ten days. At the end of this time you have the privilege of returning the book without further commitments. Or, if you feel that this is a volume you will want for your permanent library, you pay only \$3.95 plus shipping and handling (a good deal less than the price for which it may be sold through retail stores), and a reservation to see future volumes in the Life Nature Library, on approval, will be entered in your name. They will be mailed to you every two months, subject to the same terms as THE SEA. Naturally, you may cancel this preview reservation at any time if you so choose.

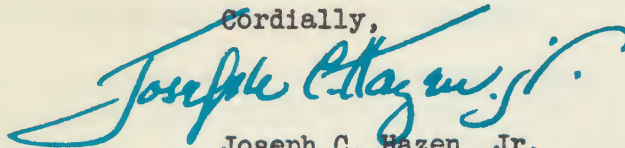
I do hope that you will be among the readers to ask for an examination copy of THE SEA, since I think that looking at this volume will be an

exciting experience for you and your entire family -- actually, not unlike the experience you might have if you were exploring the sea in a bathyscaph, with a group of scientists -- zoologists, geologists, chemists and physicists -- as your guides.

Just mail the enclosed Reservation Card, and we'll send your copy of THE SEA. Remember, there is no obligation to buy it. You have nothing to lose; you keep the book only if you feel it will be a tremendous addition to your library.

I sincerely urge you to return the card today, because I believe that you will be delighted if you do.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Joseph C. Hazen, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Joseph C. Hazen, Jr.
General Manager

JH/NLI

The story of...

...THE SEA

...THE FOREST

...THE DESERT

...THE MOUNTAINS

...THE POLES

...THE EARTH

...THE UNIVERSE

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